

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF THE FIRE SAFE CIGARETTE ACT OF 1998

HON. JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 1998

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, Today, I am introducing the Fire Safe Cigarette Act of 1998, which would direct the Consumer Product Safety Commission to promulgate a fire safety standard for cigarettes.

Each year thousands of innocent people are killed, maimed or permanently disfigured by carelessly discarded cigarettes. Under a typical cigarette fire scenario, the smoker falls asleep in a bed or sofa with a burning cigarette, the ash smolders for hours, then bursts into flames in the middle of the night—a time when everyone is least prepared.

Cigarette related fires are not rare or freak occurrences. In 1995, 1,122 individuals perished and 2,667 individuals were seriously injured from these fires. One third of the victims were innocent children. Furthermore, cigarette related fires caused more than \$500 million in property damage in 1995.

I first became involved with this issue when a family of seven perished in a cigarette related fire in my Congressional District. Five children—all under the age of ten—were burned to death. This tragedy occurred on Memorial Day Weekend in 1979.

Now, almost twenty years later, I am still fighting to give the CPSC that authority to promulgate a fire safety standard for cigarettes. Two technical bills, the Cigarette Safety Act and the Fire Safe Cigarette Act, have been passed and enacted into law.

As a result of the legislation, we now know that a cigarette can be slightly altered to significantly reduce the number of cigarette related fires. The key characteristics of a fire safe cigarette are: a filter tip, a smaller diameter, less porous paper, more expandable tobacco, and no citrate additive. By simply modifying these characteristics, cigarette manufacturers could significantly reduce the number of cigarette related fires each year.

All the technical work required to develop a fire safety standard is completed. The CPSC is ready and willing to do it. We just need to give the CPSC the authority to promulgate a fire safety standard and the Fire Safe Cigarette Act of 1998 does just that.

After twenty years of work on this issue, I am frustrated that the victims of cigarette related fires continue to be the innocent. Too often the victim is the child asleep in the upstairs bedroom, or the elderly neighbor in the apartment next door. Study after study has proven that it is technically and economically feasible to develop a fire safe cigarette, clearly Congress needs to weigh in and require cigarette manufacturers to develop fire safe cigarettes. No more children should fall victim to cigarette related fires that are preventable.

Let's pass the Fire Safe Cigarette Act of 1998 and save thousands of innocent children

and elderly individuals from perishing in cigarette related fires.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO MIKE AND JOELLA KERSCHNER ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR TWENTY-FIFTH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 1998

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding couple from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District, Mike and Joella Kerschner. I extend my best wishes to Mike and Joella, who will be celebrating their Twenty-Fifth Wedding Anniversary on Saturday, May 23, 1998.

Mr. Speaker, Mike and Joella exemplify what a loving, strong, healthy marriage should be. For as long as I have known them, Mike and Joella have been the best of friends and the closest of companions. Through their marriage vows, they have dedicated their lives to each other, to share in the joy of marriage. As we celebrate the Twenty-Fifth Wedding Anniversary of Mike and Joella's wedding, let us reflect on their lives, their love for one another, and wish them a happy and healthy marriage in the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, as Mike and Joella Kerschner celebrate this very special occasion, I wish them, their children, Karl, John, and Chris, and all of their families many years of love and happiness. I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating Mike and Joella Kerschner on their Twenty-Fifth Wedding Anniversary, and in wishing them the very best in the future.

THANK YOU, EDWIN KORN, JR.

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 1998

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, our communities grow and succeed when there is strength in community and strong leaders. I rise today to pay tribute to one individual, Edwin Korn, Jr., who has been the backbone of Port Austin for almost 40 years, serving 36 of those years as the President of the Port Austin Village Council.

Edwin was born in Detroit and moved to Port Austin in 1950. He left Port Austin only twice; once to attend college and again to serve his country in the Army. Since then, he has been a strong presence in Port Austin and an important leader of the community.

Appointed clerk in 1962, he served one term as Trustee before becoming President. He has overseen some amazing changes in Port Austin including the switch from well water to lake water and the construction of a world-class

waste water facility. Port Austin now has the distinction of having the best tasting water in the state. It is no wonder that other surrounding communities would like to tie into the Port Austin system. Although he will not seek reelection, I am sure he will remain a strong influence and continue to support efforts to improve the lives of the citizens of Port Austin and Huron County.

Edwin is astutely optimistic that there will be strong development in the Port Austin area over the next ten years and he plans to continue to remain a key player. His leadership in brining a major breakwall and harbor development effort to Port Austin goes directly to the recognition that this is a leading fishing, boating, and recreation destination in Michigan.

He could not have had such a successful career and fulfilled life without the support of his wife, Doreen, and their four children, 11 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild. His loyalty and dedication is evident through his job at Mayes IGA Foodliner where he has worked for 40 years and is now manager.

Mr. Speaker, if we want to teach our citizens to be driven by the concept of community and family, we need only introduce them to individuals like Edwin Korn. I ask you and all of our colleagues to join me in wishing Edwin Korn the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING ALBERT COURNOYER ON 40 YEARS OF SERVICE AT THE PUBLIC HOUSE HISTORIC INN

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 1998

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged today to honor one of my constituents, Mr. Albert Cournoyer, as he celebrates his 40th year of hard work and dedicated service to the Public House Historic Inn in Sturbridge, Massachusetts.

The Public House has been successfully operating and thriving in Sturbridge for 227 years. I have to think that part of the reason for the Inn's long and prosperous presence in this area of Massachusetts is due to the work of fine employees such as Albert Cournoyer.

Mr. Cournoyer first began assuming responsibility at the Public House in 1958, at the young age of 14. His work ethic and positive attitude were quickly manifested and noticed as he performed the duties of handyman and dishwasher. Mr. Cournoyer's commitment and skill allowed him to move on from these jobs to other facets of the Inn's operations so that by age 21, he was promoted to Head Chef.

Albert Cournoyer's career in the culinary arena continued to grow until he was made Executive Chef and later to the point where he was entrusted with the duty of overseeing food service operations at Old Sturbridge Village.

One of Mr. Cournoyer's greatest achievements, the fruits of which we witness today,

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

came when he served in the capacity of Director of Maintenance in the early 1980's. At this time he directed and supervised all renovations and construction to the Country Motor Lodge and adjoining restaurant.

In June of 1997, however, Albert Cournoyer's accomplishments, experience, consistent maintenance of the highest quality standards, and hospitable demeanor received their crowning recognition in an announcement which named him the newly appointed Innkeeper of the Publick House. Based on Mr. Cournoyer's record of excellence it came as no surprise that such a worthy candidate received the Innkeeper position.

The qualities that Albert Cournoyer has exhibited for 40 years and continues to reveal in his work at the Publick House are those that all citizens should strive to emulate. For the Publick House's frequent patrons, celebrants of special occasions, and travelers stopping off at this landmark, Albert Cournoyer, for 40 years, has been making their experiences both memorable and enjoyable. I am fortunate to serve such an outstanding citizen and I am proud and honored to congratulate him today.

THE MEDICARE CRITICAL NEED
GME PROTECTION ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 1998

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce "The Medicare Critical Need GME Protection Act of 1998." This important legislation seeks to protect our nation against the depletion of health care professionals that are trained to appropriately treat costly and deadly illnesses.

Under current law, the Medicare program provides reimbursement to hospitals for the direct costs of graduate medical education training. That reimbursement is designed to cover the direct training costs of residents in their initial residency training period. However, if a resident decides to proceed with further training in a specialty or subspecialty, a hospital's reimbursement is cut to half (50%) for that additional training.

The rationale for this policy is strong. In general, we have an oversupply of specialty physicians in our country and a real need to increase the number of primary care providers. By reducing the reimbursement for specialty training, the Medicare program has promoted increases in primary care training rather than specialty positions.

I agree with this policy. However, as is often the case, there are always exceptions to the rule. We do not want to hinder training of particular specialties or subspecialties if there is strong evidence that there is a serious shortage of those particular physicians. That is why I am introducing The Medicare Critical Need GME Protection Act.

To provide an example of a current subspecialty facing serious shortages of professionals, we can look at nephrology. Between 1986-1995, the number of patients with End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) has more than doubled. At present, more than 40 million Americans die from kidney failure or its complications each year. In 1998, the estimated cost to treat ESRD will exceed \$12 billion.

However, current data indicates that only 51.8% of today's nephrologists will still be in practice in the year 2010.

Most primary care physicians are not trained to treat the complex multi-symptom medical problems typically seen in ESRD and are unfamiliar with particular medications and technology prescribed for such patients. The decreasing supply of nephrologists, coupled with an expanding population of renal patients, puts the health of our nation at risk.

The Medicare Critical Need GME Protection Act provides a tool to help combat such shortages of qualified professionals. The bill would simply provide the Secretary of Health and Human Services with the flexibility to continue full-funding for a specialty or subspecialty training program if there is evidence that the program has a current shortage, or faces an imminent shortage, of physicians to meet the needs of our health care system. The Secretary would grant this exception only for a limited number of years. The Secretary would have complete control of the exception process. Programs would present evidence of the shortage and she could agree or disagree with the analysis. Nothing in this bill would require the Secretary to take any action whatsoever.

The bill also includes protections for budget neutrality. If the Secretary approves a specialty or subspecialty training program for full-funding under this bill, the Secretary must adjust direct GME payments to ensure that no additional funds are spent.

Again, The Medicare Critical Need GME Protection Act does nothing more than provide limited flexibility to the Secretary of Health and Human Services to ensure that we are training the health care professionals that meet our nation's needs.

I would encourage my colleagues to join me in support of this important legislation. By giving the Secretary the flexibility to allocate funds to attract and train professionals in certain "at risk" fields of medicine, we will significantly improve patient care and lower long term health care costs.

A BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 1998

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the selection of Warren P. Shepherd Junior High School as a Blue Ribbon School.

Located in Ottawa, Illinois, Shepherd is one of only 166 secondary schools in the nation presented with this prestigious award by the United States Department of Education. The Blue Ribbon Award is sought after by thousands of schools across the country.

Blue Ribbon status is bestowed upon schools with qualities including strong leadership, a clear vision and sense of mission, high quality teaching, challenging and up-to-date curriculum, and solid evidence of family involvement. These are the schools that best prepare children for the challenges they will face in the future. Blue Ribbon schools are also effective in meeting local state and national goals.

Led by Principal Michael Bannister, Shepherd Junior High School clearly has the characteristics of a Blue Ribbon school. As a sev-

enth and eighth grade junior high school, Shepherd strives to maintain excellence, effectiveness and equity in the education of young people in the "middle grades." This school of 513 students serves both regular and special education students. Shepherd was recognized for its ability to combine these two populations through a successful peer partnering program.

As with other Blue Ribbon schools, Shepherd prepares our young people for tomorrow's challenges through active learning programs. Shepherd's hands-on learning philosophy is perhaps best evidenced by its science curriculum. After undergoing several major technology-related renovations last year, Shepherd has become a technology leader in north central Illinois. At least one new computer with multimedia capabilities and Internet access has been installed in each classroom. In addition, clusters of up to six new computers were placed in four locations of the building, and a Special Education computer lab was installed.

Among Shepherd's strong points are an integrated curriculum designed by cross-curricular grade level teams, a commitment to the development of skills in the area of language arts and exemplary students, faculty and administrators. These and many other accomplishments led qualified Shepherd for Blue Ribbon status.

Mr. Speaker, today I recognize and honor Shepherd Junior High School as a recipient of the prestigious Blue Ribbon Schools Award. Shepherd exemplifies the standard of excellence to which all junior high schools should be held. I am proud to represent a district that includes schools of Blue-Ribbon caliber.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JOHN
KELLY

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 1998

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the career of one of the longest serving National Officers of the American Postal Workers Union (APWU), AFL-CIO, John Kelly, who has announced his retirement after a most distinguished career representing Union members.

John Kelly was a native of the Philadelphia, PA area, but came to the Denver area when he was four years old. He was a graduate of North High School and began his career with the United States Post Office on September 30, 1962, eight years before Congress created the U.S. Postal Service.

John's sterling union career began as a steward, later as secretary, and finally, as President of the Denver local. In 1971, five postal unions merged to form the APWU, and John became a full-time union officer. As the National Vice President for APWU, John served on the National Executive Board, the highest governing body of the Union. Today, he is the senior business agent for the APWU, an organization which has grown to include business agents nationwide.

During his tenure with APWU, John was well-known not only for his skills at arbitration but for his ability to help the members understand the very technical language of their contract with the Postal Service. His expertise

was so thorough that the APWU used his services in national contract negotiations and numerous other special projects that affected the union. He has promoted union advocacy and educated colleagues on how to interpret the Collective Bargaining Agreement and the National Labor Relations Act.

For 28 years John has represented the APWU in the Denver Region, which includes the states of Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming. John was one of the principal architects of the five-state Denver Regional Assembly, an entity that flourishes today. He is so highly respected that no one has run against him in the National Election in more than 20 years.

Again, I take this opportunity to thank John Kelly for his years of service to the APWU and want to wish him and his family the best in retirement.

HONORING BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 1998

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor three high schools in San Diego County which have now had their excellence recognized and proclaimed as National Blue Ribbon Schools.

Torrey Pines High School, in Encinitas, California, in my 51st Congressional District, part of the San Diego Union High School District, principal Marie Grey, and superintendent Dr. William Berrier.

Coronado High School, in Coronado, California, part of the Coronado Unified School District, principal Dr. Jeffrey David, and superintendent Dr. Rene Townsend.

University of San Diego High School, in Linda Vista, California, principal Dr. Richard Kelly.

Let the permanent RECORD of the Congress of the United States show that these Blue Ribbon Schools display the qualities of excellence that are necessary to prepare our young people for the 21st Century.

IN HONOR OF FATHER ALBERT JAMES EVANS, SS.CC.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Father Albert Evans who celebrates his Fiftieth Jubilee Mass at Our Lady of Good Counsel on May 31, 1998.

Father Al, as he is known to friends, was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio. Graduating from James Ford Rhodes High School in 1932, Father Al joined the unemployed masses of the Great Depression. For the next ten years, he would hold a variety of odd jobs, working as an orderly in Cleveland City Hospital, a factory worker, a dock worker, and a truck driver.

In 1939, Father Al enrolled in Saint Mary's College in Kentucky. It was while studying at Saint Mary's that Father Al found his calling,

applying for admission to the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. He began his studies for the priesthood three years later in Washington, DC and was ordained in 1948.

Upon his ordination, Father Al received an obedience in Japan. For the next twenty years, he presided over a little mission north of Tokyo. His work in Japan ended after he was diagnosed with lung cancer, resulting in the removal of a portion of his left lung. Father Albert recovered upon his return to the United States, dedicating himself to mission promotion.

My fellow colleagues, let us recognize Father Al's fifty years of service to the world's underprivileged and congratulate him as he celebrates his Fiftieth Jubilee Mass.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO JESSICA L. CHAPMAN ON HER APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY AT WEST POINT, NY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 1998

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a truly outstanding young lady from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District, Jessica L. Chapman. Jessica recently accepted her appointment to attend the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, where she will join the incoming Cadet Class of 2002.

Jessica, who is from Bowling Green, Ohio, will soon be graduating from Bowling Green High School, and will begin preparing for one of the most challenging, rewarding, and educational experiences of her life: her four-year commitment at West Point.

While attending Bowling Green High School, Jessica has proven herself to be an exceptional student and an outstanding student-athlete. In the classroom, Jessica's accomplishments are unparalleled as she has attained a perfect 4.0 grade point average, placing her first in her class of 290 students.

In addition to her academic achievements, Jessica has performed very well on the fields of competition. Jessica was the Co-Captain of the Varsity Cross Country Team and the Varsity Volleyball Team. She was also a member of the Varsity Track and Varsity Basketball Teams. Jessica was active in the National Honor Society, German Club, and attended the United States Air Force Academy's Summer Science Seminar.

Mr. Speaker, each year, I have the opportunity to nominate outstanding young men and women to the nation's military academies. I am pleased that Jessica has accepted her appointment and will be joining West Point's Class of 2002. I would urge my colleagues to stand and join me in paying special tribute to Jessica Chapman. I am sure she will do very well at West Point, and in all of her future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF PRINCIPAL MARY S. MURPHY

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 1998

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to show my appreciation for one of our finest educators and administrators, Ms. Mary Murphy, who is moving on after sixteen years of invaluable service to Our Lady of Good Counsel High School. She served fourteen years as an English teacher and Senior advisor, and three years as principal.

Mary Murphy has inspired hundreds of her pupils to become outstanding students who went on to successful careers. But perhaps more importantly, she emphasized to her students the importance of being kind and considerate individuals.

Ms. Murphy is compassionate, caring, funny and a good listener. These qualities allowed her to capture students' attention and become an important influence in their lives.

I salute Principal Mary Murphy for being an excellent educator, leader, and role model. She will be leaving Our Lady of Good Counsel High School, but her work will always stay in her students' hearts and minds.

JASON ESPIRITU, GUAM'S NATIONAL GEOGRAPHY BEE FINALIST

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 1998

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, for the last couple of days, Washington, D.C. played host to 57 state-level winners from all over America as they vie to win the 1998 National Geography Bee. Celebrating its 10th anniversary, the National Geography Bee was developed in response to concern about lack of geographic knowledge among young people in the United States. The finalists range from ages 11 to 15. Each rose above a field of about 5 million students in order to earn a place in the 10th annual national championships. The finals were held on May 19th and 20th hosted for the 10th consecutive year by Jeopardy's Alex Trebek.

The state level winners represent all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the five U.S. territories—American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands—and the Department of Defense Schools. Twelve of the 57 students are repeat state winners. Ten others competed in the 1997 finals. Among them, Jason Espiritu, is from my home Island of Guam and I am proud to announce that he finished in the top ten.

Jason, a seventh grade student at St. Anthony's School in Tamuning, is the son of Virgilio and Amelia Espiritu. As you may have guessed, his favorite subjects in school are Social Studies and Geography. To prepare for the competition he employed a number of reference materials such as atlases, almanacs, news magazines and National Geographic videos. His fine performance could be contributed to preparation and his every day habits of

reading newspapers and keeping up with current events. The facts that he is hearing-impaired never prevented Jason from doing well and making Guam proud.

On behalf of the people of Guam, I congratulate Jason Espiritu on his very fine performance. We commend his efforts towards excellence and expect no less from him in the years to come.

LET'S HELP OUR NATIONAL
PARKS AND THE AMERICAN
TAXPAYER

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 1998

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation, with the co-sponsorship of several of my colleagues, to provide a fair return to the public for the commercial use of our national parks and to use those funds to maintain and enhance park resources and visitor services.

The National Park Service is being hamstrung in the changes it can make to its concessions policies by the provisions of the outdated 1965 Concessions Policy Act. At a time when families, senior citizens, and other recreational users visiting our parks are required to pay higher fees, the same is not being required of commercial operators who profit from our national parks. For far too long, the public has not received a fair return on the commercial revenues generated in our national parks. It's time to end this situation.

"The National Park Service Concession Policy Reform Act of 1998" is the successor of the NPS concessions reform legislation of the 103rd Congress, which, although it passed the House in 1994 by an overwhelming vote of 386 to 30 and the Senate by an equally overwhelming vote of 90 to 9, never was enacted into law. The provisions of my bill have been the subject of numerous hearings over the years and addresses problems identified in GAO and Inspector General reports. It is a proposal that has had the support of the Administration, environmental organizations, and taxpayer watchdog groups. Similar legislation has been introduced in the Senate by Senator Dale Bumpers.

The legislation provides meaningful competition for NPS contracts to provide goods and services to park visitors. The bill eliminates certain preferential rights of renewal and phases out possessory interest, both of which have been major barriers to competition. In addition, it provides that the funds generated from concession contracts will stay in the parks to benefit park resources and visitor services.

If we want to increase the return to the public and enhance park resources while still making available to visitors a quality concessions service, we need to install a competitive process instead of maintaining advantages for select commercial operators. The National Park Service Concession Policy Reform Act achieves these purposes. I hope Members will add their support to this legislation.

IN HONOR OF ANTHONY DIBIASIO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Anthony "Tony" DiBiasio for his tireless efforts on behalf of the school children of Lakewood, Ohio for the past fifty years.

After serving his country in the U.S. Air Force during the Second World War, Tony went on to receive a B.S. and Masters from Ohio University and continued doctoral studies at Western Reserve University. For fifty years, "Mr. D." has demonstrated this love of learning as a teacher, administrator, coach, and currently, as Executive Director of the Lakewood Public Schools Foundation. He has also served as president of both the Lakewood Education Association and the Lakewood PTA.

In addition to his work with Lakewood schools, Tony has also served as Director of Project Read, conducting reading workshops at colleges and universities throughout the country. He has also sat on the Board of Directors of Keep America Beautiful and was a valued member of the Lakewood Kiwanis Club. Tony has been published in a number of professional journals.

Having made a significant contribution to his community, it comes as little surprise that Tony had made something of a "name" for himself. The street in front of Lakewood High School has been dubbed Tony DiBiasio Square. A scholarship fund at the high school and the Fitness Center at the Lakewood YMCA also bear his name. Tony's service towards others has been honored by the American Legion and the American Red Cross.

My fellow colleagues, let us join the entire Lakewood community in thanking Anthony DiBiasio for his commitment to the young people of Lakewood, Ohio. May his many years of service to community and country serve as an example to us all.

SALUTE TO MAJOR NED SWINNEY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 1998

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Major Ned Swinney, who was born January 13, 1938, in Jefferson County, MS to the late Jim and Leola Swinney.

Major Swinney departed this life on May 10, 1998, but he left a proud legacy as a husband, father, and law enforcement officer. He attended the Jackson public schools and received an associate degree from the Baptist Seminary of Mississippi.

Major Swinney began his career as a law enforcement officer in 1956 as a military police officer in the United States Army. He began his 25-year-long association with the Hinds County Sheriff's Department in July 1972 where he served as Deputy Sheriff, Staff Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain, and was promoted to Major in 1992.

Major Swinney exhibited thoughtfulness and compassion for people in the community he

came in touch with. He reached out to those in trouble with a steady hand supported by his Christian belief of loving one's neighbor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in saluting the family of Major Ned Swinney for the outstanding contributions he made to the world of law enforcement.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO BRIAN C. VANVALKENBURG ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY AT WEST POINT, NY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 1998

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to a truly outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District, Brian C. VanValkenburg. Brian has recently accepted his offer of appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, and will be joining the incoming Cadet Class of 2002.

Very soon, Brian will be graduating from Vermilion High School, and will begin preparing for one of the most challenging, rewarding, and educational experiences of his life: his four years at West Point.

While attending Vermilion High School, Brian distinguished himself as an outstanding student and a very fine student-athlete. In the classroom, Brian's academic successes are outstanding, as he has attained a 3.77 grade point average, placing him tenth in his class of 194 students.

Brian has been active in the National Honor Society, and has participated in the National Latin Exam. In addition, Brian has shown himself to be a leader with his election to president of his class during his junior year. On the fields of competition, Brian was a member of the Vermilion Sailors Varsity Football Team.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the opportunity to nominate Brian for appointment to the United States Military Academy. I am certain he will do very well. I would ask my colleagues to stand and join me in paying special tribute to Brian VanValkenburg, and in wishing him well in all of his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO NAT BINGHAM

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 1998

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to Nat Bingham, an advocate for the fish and the fishermen on the West Coast, whose untimely death earlier this month has left a void so large, it will be difficult, if not impossible, to fill. His list of accomplishments on behalf of the fish and forests was long and varied, forging compromise between opposing groups for the good of the resource.

A commercial fisherman for over 30 years, his efforts in fisheries restoration began almost as long ago when, in his typical forward looking way, he headed projects in North Coast watersheds for salmon rearing and stream

restoration. He initiated the Sacramento winter-run salmon broodstock program and the Sacramento spring-run chinook working group. He was a critical voice in the debate leading to the enactment of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act, rallying the fishing industry to support our efforts to provide water for fish and wildlife.

He was active in coho salmon recovery efforts, and was a member of the Ecosystem Roundtable dealing with funding proposals for the Bay-Delta. He was a long-time member of the Commercial Salmon Stamp Committee and the California Advisory Committee on Salmon and Steelhead Trout. He also served as president of the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Association (PCFFA) for 9 years. Through it all he fought tirelessly for the industry and the restoration of the fish they depend on.

Nat gave up fishing a few years ago to work full-time on fish and fish habitat conservation as the Habitat Director for PCFFA. In this role, he was instrumental in the developing and building support for new habitat protection measures that were included in the most recent reauthorization of the Magnuson Act. He was a current member of the Pacific Fishery Management Council, and prior to be appointed to the Council he served as chairman of their Salmon Advisory panel. A proponent for protecting marine areas, he was to be the Pacific Council's representative on the upcoming Year of the Ocean Conference in Monterey.

Nat Bingham was an independent thinker, a strong moral voice, and a great conservationist who looked at the long term, not just the present. He would take on large industry—whether it was oil, timber, or agribusiness—the government, the environmental community, or even his own fishing industry when he felt they were wrong. He approached these challenges as a consensus builder not an adversary, however, trying to build bridges between opposing interests for the good of the resources and the people that depend on them.

There are some people who have been so important and have been doing the work for so long in their community that their value to the people, the community and the resource is impossible to measure. At the same time, they have been fighting the fight for so long, you can't remember what it was like before they came along. Nat Bingham was one of those people. His contributions to the protection of the resource and our environment were immeasurable, and the thought of fighting the good fight without him is almost impossible to imagine. We will continue to fight however, to save the salmon and their habitat. Nat would expect no less, and it is an appropriate way to honor his memory.

TRIBUTE TO BEN WILLIAMS

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 1998

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding career of an educator in our community. A lifelong educator with the Toledo Public School system, Ben Williams will be feted at a retirement event that

will also serve as a scholarship dinner in his honor on May 23, 1998 in Toledo.

A product of the Toledo Public Schools himself, Ben began his career in 1968 at Woodward High School, where he taught general science and coached freshman boys basketball. Ben truly discovered his passion as a teacher and coach at Toledo's Scott High School in 1969, where he remained until retirement. While at Scott, he taught health education, became Chair of the Physical Education Department, and coached the junior varsity and varsity boys basketball teams. During his seventeen years as head coach, his teams have won an amazing ten City Championships, and last year, the Scott Bulldogs won the Ohio State Championship. No doubt, the Bulldogs with this victory expressed their appreciation to him for his lifelong dedication to them. Eight of the teams under his leadership have ranked among the top ten Ohio AAA teams. His accomplishments earned Ben the designation of AAA Boys Basketball Coach of the Year.

Ben's success as a basketball coach has not been simply about fostering technical skills and teamwork on the basketball court. States a noted local sportscaster, "While building the area's top basketball program at Scott, Ben has not let his players forget why they are in school. He not only insists on athletic achievement but academic efforts as well." Indeed, 90 percent of his players have gone on to college! Truly a mentor to his players, Ben puts his philosophy into action, explaining "Most of our boys come from broken homes. I spend more time with them than the typical coach. I have a year-round relationship with them. We try to keep basketball in perspective. Academic achievement and personality improvement are the most important things."

Ben also founded the City of Toledo Recreation Department's Annual Early Bird Basketball Clinic, serving over 600 children in each of the 8 years he directed the program. He has directed various recreation and youth offices in both Toledo and Erie, Pennsylvania. Finally, he worked with the University of Toledo's Summer Sports Program for 13 years, from 1970 to 1983.

Ben Williams is a graduate of Bowling Green State University, where he earned both his undergraduate and graduate degrees. He has also worked toward his doctorate at Gannon College in Pennsylvania, George Washington University, and Sir George William's University in Montreal. He holds a teaching award from Phi Beta Kappa, and has received many other awards for his exemplary teaching and service to our community.

In addition to an extraordinarily successful teaching and coaching career, Ben is happily married to Arielle. They are the proud and earnest parents of Robert, Kristie, and Leah.

Perhaps Ben Williams' proudest professional moment came when Scott High School last year renamed its field house in his honor. In accepting the tribute, Ben spoke of his State Championship team. "This close unit has shown what discipline, hard work, and caring can do for all who wish to beat the odds." Indeed these stand as fitting words by which we all might live.

SUPPORTING H.R. 59

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 1998

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 59, the National Right To Work Act. This bill would repeal those sections of Federal law which allow big labor to force hard-working Americans to pay union dues under the threat of losing their jobs.

This is un-American. Yet, it happens to thousands of men and women every single month of the year. Union bosses take the hard-earned money of workers who have no legal say in the matter.

Mr. Speaker, it was Congress who created this problem. We gave big labor the privilege and authority to take this money away, by taking away the worker's freedom to choose whether or not to pay union dues.

Congress must now give that freedom back to American workers.

H.R. 59 empowers Americans and gives them the choice that never should have been taken from them in the first place.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 59, the National Right To Work Act.

INTRODUCTION OF THE JUDICIAL ANTI-NEPOTISM ACT

HON. JENNIFER DUNN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 1998

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to preserve the institutional integrity of the federal courts. This bill will clarify the 1922 anti-nepotism law (section 458 of Title 28 of the United States Code) which prohibits the appointment or employment in any court of individuals who are related within the degree of first cousin to any justice or judge of that court.

Currently, there is disagreement about whether this anti-nepotism law applies simply to judges' personnel decisions or whether it includes presidential appointments to judicial offices in federal courts.

I believe that the law must apply to both if courts are to remain unbiased. It is the duty of Congress to ensure that the credibility of our judicial branch is not compromised. That is why I am introducing the Judicial Anti-nepotism Act. This legislation clarifies the intent of the original law to preclude the appointment of a judge to a court if that person is related within the degree of first cousin to any judge, including a judge retired in senior status, of that same court.

If the law were not to apply to the familial relationship of judges, close family members would be able to serve concurrently on the same court, causing litigants to lose confidence in a system clearly designed to be objective and impartial. We simply cannot afford to let this happen. We must assure that federal judges are independent from any outside influence in order for their decisions to be completely impartial and based only on the laws and facts of the cases.

I encourage my colleagues to support this bill and help uphold the just character and

composition of one of our most revered institutions.

CELEBRATION OF THE VALLEY
BANK

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 1998

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate as well as acknowledge the 100th birthday of The Valley Bank in Greenwood, Mississippi. Originally founded in 1898 in Rosedale, Mississippi, The Valley Bank has persevered, persisted, prevailed and prospered into a system of community banks with eleven locations across the Mississippi Delta extending into the states' capital at Jackson, one of the fastest growing cities in Mississippi.

The Valley Bank was founded by David Reinach, W.B. Roberts, Saint Kohn, Isaac Kohn, Godfrey Frank, J.L. Wilson, and G.J. McGehee, Jr. It was the vision of these seven aspiring gentlemen to create a financial institution in the Mississippi Delta. With this vision, The Valley Bank has grown to become a well known bank throughout the country. In 1997, The Valley Bank ranked 78th out of 14,850 banks in the nation on its return on assets and return on equity to stockholders. In addition to that, The Valley Bank ranked #1 out of 126 banks in Mississippi in both loan volume and dollar amount of loans made under the Farm Service Agency and in business and industry loans.

Mr. Speaker, in this day of mega-mergers where banks are being bought and sold, consolidated, and reaching across state lines, The Valley Bank remains one of the few banks that continues the tradition of personal service, customer satisfaction and community involvement. It is refreshing to know that The Valley Bank today is as old-fashioned as it was 100 years ago when it first opened its doors for business.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the 100th birthday of The Valley Bank. May it prosper for an additional 100 years based on the principle of dedicated personal service.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SOUTHERN
HIGH SCHOOL'S MOCK TRIAL
TEAM

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 1998

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the

members of Southern High School's mock trial team for their outstanding performance in the Mock Trial National Championship held in Albuquerque, New Mexico from May 8-9. They placed second in a competitive program involving 45 state teams. Not only did Southern High School take second honors, Leslie Travis, a fourth year Southern High student, was also awarded the distinction of best attorney in the competition.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Guam are extremely proud of Ria Baldevia, Brian Biacan, Sharon Cadag, Leona Cruz, Vera Lynn Gozum, Leanna Libby, Charles McJohn, Denise Mendiola, John Moorhead, Pergrin Pervez, Teddy Salas, Michael San Nicolas, Aubrey Santos, Tricia Ann Santos, Leslie Travis, and Joshua Tyquengco not only for their exceptional achievement, but also for their admirable performance as Guam's ambassadors in this national contest.

Mock trial is an arduous competition which calls on a team's creative intelligence, logical reasoning, and quick wit to outmatch the other competitors. Southern High School's performance illustrates what can be accomplished through hard work, dedication and teamwork. On behalf of the people of Guam, I congratulate Southern High School and the members of their mock trial team for their magnificent achievement.

IN HONOR OF THIRD FEDERAL
SAVINGS ASSOCIATION

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Third Federal Savings Association, which has served as a leader in Cleveland's banking community for sixty years.

Third Federal Savings continues to build upon its legacy as a strong civic institution by spearheading the Broadway Development Initiative, a group of 100 organizations dedicated to the revitalization of Cleveland's Broadway-Slavic Village area. The initiative includes a diverse assortment of community groups from the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland to government entities.

The crown jewel of the redevelopment area will be Third Federal's \$17.3 million operations center, which will be completed in November 1999. In addition, the bank has pledged to invest \$10 million in the community within the next ten years.

Third Federal will also ally with Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity in combating the problem of homelessness, donating \$10 to

the organization for every mortgage loan made by the bank. This partnership will finally make possible the development of the Worsted Woolen Mills site, the former location of a factory destroyed by fire in 1993. Prior to Third Federal's donation, Greater Cleveland Habitat had trouble finding financial backing.

My fellow colleagues, join me in recognizing Third Federal Savings Association's commitment to its surrounding community and in congratulating the bank of its 60th Anniversary.

IN HONOR OF THE 32ND ANNIVERSARY
OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF
GUYANA

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 1998

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the New Jersey Arya Samaj Mandir, Inc. for their efforts to commemorate the 32nd anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Guyana. On Tuesday, May 26, they will be hosting their third annual commemorative flag-raising for the independence of Guyana in the Council Chambers at City Hall in Jersey City. New Jersey Arya Samaj Mandir, Inc. was incorporated in 1988 and aims to preserve and promote Arya/Hindu culture in New Jersey.

The history of Guyana parallels that of the United States in several ways. Similar to the U.S., Christopher Columbus was the first European to see the Guyana coast in 1498. Guyana is also a land of immigrants with citizens tracing their roots to India, Portugal, China, and Africa. Guyana is the only country on the mainland of South America with English as its official language.

Guyana also shares with the United States the experience of gaining independence from the colonial interests of Europe. The Dutch, the French, and the British have each occupied Guyana at various times between 1621 and 1966. In 1992, Guyana successfully instituted free and fair elections.

In closing, I would like to thank the New Jersey Arya Samaj Mandir, Inc. for their flag-raising ceremony and congratulate the Republic of Guyana for its 32nd year of independence.